

Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group March 10 Collaborative Group Meeting Summary

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

With optional activities during 4:30 – 5:00pm and 7:00 – 8:00pm.

(v. 4-20-2021)

Video recordings of the March 10, 2021 meeting are now available online on the [Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group YouTube Page](#).

The March 10th meeting marked the commencement of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site Collaborative Group (Collaborative). The Collaborative is led by Collaborative members and co-convened by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on a quarterly basis. The Collaborative meeting was held as an online only webinar and took place from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. It was divided into sections as follows:

- 1. **Optional* Informal Meet & Greet: 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.***
- 2. *Coordinated Opening: 5:00 – 5:20 p.m.***
- 3. *Agenda, Introductions and Materials: 5:20 – 6:05 p.m.***
- 4. *Break: 6:05 – 6:10 p.m.***
- 5. *Portland Harbor Superfund Site Introduction Presentation: 6:10 – 6:20 p.m.***
- 6. *Sampling within the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, Focus on Cathedral Park Project Area Presentation: 6:20 – 6:55 p.m.***
- 7. *Wrap Up and Reminders: 6:55 – 7:00 p.m.***
- 8. **Optional* Virtual Breakout Rooms: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.***

Coordinated Opening (See opening [here](#))

Welcome

The Facilitator welcomed all participants to the meeting, recognizing the effort and dedication that community members put into creating the Collaborative Group model. The Facilitator introduced three speakers who each provided a welcome and opening statement to all Collaborative members and observers/public. The speakers included:

- **Amyl Freeberg**, Willamette River Advocacy Group (WRAG) and Collaborative Group Steering Committee Member
- **Caleb Shaffer**, Portland Harbor Team Lead from EPA
- **Sarah Greenfield**, In-Water Coordinator from DEQ

Water & Land Acknowledgment/Opening

Sarah Taylor, the Braided River Campaign, and the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group (CAG), provided a water and land acknowledgment to open the meeting on the community's behalf. Sarah expressed the importance of healing, protecting, and re-committing to the health and well-being of the lower Willamette River and the watershed. She acknowledged the indigenous peoples of the river.

Agenda, Materials, and Introductions

The Facilitator provided an overview of the following:

- **Facilitation Team:** Introduced [Triangle Associates](#) (Triangle) as the third-party neutral facilitation firm who provides facilitation and coordination services to the Collaborative as a contractor for EPA.
- **Collaborative Group Model:** Provided an overview of the Collaborative Group model via a graphic, distinguishing roles of the Collaborative Members, the co-conveners EPA and DEQ, and the observers/public.
 - The Facilitator announced that the Collaborative is always accepting new members and to email phcollaborative@triangleassociates.com if interested in becoming a member.
- **Zoom Logistics:** Reviewed the logistics of using the webinar platform including how to ask questions both as a Collaborative member and as an observer/public.
- **Agenda & Materials:** Reviewed the agenda for the meeting and provided instructions on how to access the meeting materials. The final agenda and full materials packet are [now available online](#).

Introductions

The Facilitator led a round of introductions for Collaborative members. Members were asked to share 1) their name/affiliation, and 2) their motivation or passion for being a member of the group. Once all Collaborative members introduced themselves, the Facilitator showed a Word Cloud image capturing the diverse motivations for participating in the group. The image can be viewed at the bottom of this document or [online here](#).

Presentation: Portland Harbor Superfund Site Introduction (See full presentation [here](#))

Laura Knudsen, Community Involvement Coordinator with EPA, and Lauren Wirtis, Public Affairs Specialist with DEQ, introduced the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (Site). They provided a brief history of Superfund law and important terms to understand the Superfund process. They presented a map highlighting the lower section of the Willamette River that the Portland Harbor Site specifically encompasses and the various impacted neighborhoods of the Site.

Key facts regarding the Site's history, contamination, and multiple groups involved in the clean-up were shared, as well as the different roles and responsibilities that EPA and DEQ have at the Site. While EPA's role focuses on in-water oversight, DEQ's role focuses on upland oversight. Both agencies can oversee actions on riverbanks. EPA and DEQ Portland Harbor Team organizational charts were displayed.

To learn more on this topic, participants were invited to attend the Superfund 101 breakout room during the optional 7:00-8:00pm meeting timeframe.

To learn more about EPA and DEQ:

- Visit EPA's [Portland Harbor Superfund Website](#)
 - Join EPA's Portland Harbor Listserv by emailing Laura at knudsen.laura@epa.gov.
- Visit DEQ's [Portland Harbor Superfund Website](#)
 - Find the interactive [Portland Harbor Upland Site Map](#)

Presentation: Sampling within the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, Focus on the Cathedral Park Project Area (See full presentation [here](#))

The Facilitator introduced Jessica Rojas, Executive Director at the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods (NECN) and a Collaborative Group Steering Committee Member. Jessica shared a brief personal story on how sampling on the Willamette River in the 1990s was instrumental in building her relationship with the river and her current passion for protecting the river.

Jessica stated that she would share more of her sampling story and encourage other community members to share their stories at the Community Storytelling breakout room during the optional 7:00-8:00pm meeting timeframe.

The Facilitator thanked Jessica and introduced Madi Novak and Josie Clark, Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) with EPA, to provide a presentation on Sampling within the Site with a focus on the Cathedral Park Project Area. Madi and Josie covered the following:

- **EPA and DEQ roles in sampling**
 - EPA is involved in in-water sampling.
 - While DEQ is not directly involved with in-water sampling, it does evaluate and provide input on the sampling plans and results of in-water sampling work overseen by EPA.
- **Sampling Site-Wide & Sampling Processes**
 - History of sampling on the Site from 2000-2016.
 - Overview of sediment sampling equipment and lab analysis procedures.
- **Sampling at the Cathedral Park Project Area**
 - EPA is working to develop a plan for initial sampling work.
 - Areas of contamination that EPA has identified as requiring cleanup.
 - First phase of collection of samples (field work) is planned for June 2021.
- **Cathedral Park Project Area Working Group**
 - The purpose of the group is to discuss and develop community education and engagement opportunities for EPA's *initial* sampling work at the Cathedral Park Project Area (planned to start in June 2021).
 - To join the group please contact Laura Knudsen (knudsen.laura@epa.gov, 206-643-4299).

